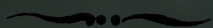


MED. LIBRARY

Havant
Rural District Council



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of
Health

For the Year 1925



Havant
Rural District Council



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of
Health

For the Year 1925

Annual Report for 1925.

Population	...	...	7520
Total Deaths	...	...	92
Total Births	...	...	113
Deaths under 1 year	...	...	7
Death Rate	...	...	12'2
Birth Rate	...	...	15'0
Infantile Mortality per 1000 births			51'1
Infectious diseases :			
Tuberculosis	...	...	8
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	1

DETAILS OF GENERAL DEATHS.

Measles	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system			7
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	15
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	4
Heart disease	...	...	20
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	9
Pneumonia	...	...	3
Ulcer of stomach	...	...	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	3
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Tuberculosis	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	12
Typhoid (including Para-typhoid)			3
Diphtheria	...	...	7
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica		...	1
Puerperal fever	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1

The Death Rate is about the average, though it is a little higher than it was last year.

I regret to find that the Birth Rate is still seriously low. Perhaps both are due to the causes I mentioned last year.

The Infantile Death Rate is satisfactory.

The Deaths from Tubercle are less than usual.

From Cancer they are very high.

One has been lately led to expect a possible diminution of this disease, partly through the detection of it in its early and operable stages and partly through the recent Scientific ~~Discovery~~ of the cause.

Sooner or later, of course, the cause and the cure will be found.

Then we shall have to find some other disease to die from.

In the meantime the deaths from Heart Disease are much on the increase; 20 deaths last year was a big record.

It always astonishes me to see so few deaths put down to Nephritis, and I am inclined to think that it must be under-estimated.

The deaths from ordinary infectious diseases are most satisfactory, and we had no epidemic of any importance.

Perhaps the most remarkable, and certainly the most noticeable event of the year, has been the enormous number of new houses constructed.

Drayton is growing by leaps and bounds, Waterlooville and Purbrook are joined, and the increase all over Hayling is the same.

The improvement in the roads, in Hayling in particular, is striking. They were very narrow and, in places, dangerous, though the real danger lies, not in the road, but in the persons who use it.

And the new houses—though not always constructed for posterity—are being built with larger windows, better light and ventilation than they were.

Also where there is a Public Water Supply—and there is one nearly over the whole district—bath rooms should be a great acquisition. I should like to see better use made of these baths. Too often they are not put to their proper purpose.

Still it is interesting to notice how many people do try to get all the sun they can in their houses, and also how much cleaner they are in their own persons.

There is room for improvement in dress.

Young babies are still clothed in the uncomfortable and foolish long clothes and tight bodies of the century before last.

And young women wear cheap silk stockings that are not warm.

On the other hand the short sleeves and skirts worn by all women—though not beautiful to look upon—give the wearer much greater freedom of movement and ability to take exercise and play games.

The walk of the young woman of to-day is quite unlike that of her grandmother.

I hope they will, soon turn their attention to boots. Most of them wear shoes which are too thin and allow the feet to get wet.

The Russian boot meets this difficulty.

Now that it is the fashion to wear shoes and stockings in harmony with the dress a larger stock of shoes becomes necessary.

These are now sold cheaply, and in this case cheapness means inferior quality and neither warmth nor dryness for the feet.

The introduction of the high rubber boot and the Russian boot will meet this difficulty for as long as the fashion lasts.

Clothes have always been and will probably ever remain a matter of fashion, designed with little consideration for health or comfort.

In the direction of the prevention of disease and the prolongation of life we are moving rapidly.

It was said with a great deal of truth that more men died in the South African War from Typhoid than from wounds. In the Great War the amount of Typhoid was negligible.

This was the result of preventive inoculation.

Improved sanitation, better ventilation, dryer, warmer, sunnier houses, good and plentiful water supplies, better food—(I wish I could add better cooking)—better clothing and open air spaces, have done much for the health of the nation.

The Death Rate has been reduced by nearly one half, the infantile mortality by two thirds.

The incidence and death from summer diarrhoea is, in this district at anyrate, enormously reduced. I look upon this as a very sensitive indicator.

Typhoid fever is becoming almost rare in this district and is nothing like so severe as it was.

Diphtheria is of a milder type and less frequent.

How seldom now does one see the distorted, crippled agricultural labourer—the man who started work as a little child, who worked from daylight to dark for a few pence a week, who never had proper clothing or food, who was seldom properly dry, and who died in the workhouse.

I venture to think that the next generation will never see this sight; and it is well that it is so, for it was the biggest disgrace to us as a nation with which I am acquainted.

The open air treatment of nearly naked children in tuberculous conditions and the exposure of wounds to sun has remarkable effect.

A visit to the Sun-trap Home at Hayling Island should delight anyone.

The introduction of ultra violet rays in the treatment of disease in this sunless country has already done wonders and is likely to have far-reaching effects in the future.

Its effect on tropical animals kept in this country has been to make them healthier and happier and to enable them to rear their young.

I have just spoken of the inoculation for prevention in Typhoid Fever and other diseases.

Inoculation in the treatment of disease is rapidly becoming the daily practise of most physicians, and less dependence is placed on medicine.

Perhaps its greatest success has been in Diphtheria and its greatest failure in Tuberculosis. It is used in such wide apart diseases as Rheumatism, Asthma, and that most distressing disease Whooping Cough.

Lately we have been using a serum in the treatment of Scarlet Fever. Scarlet Fever has of late years been of a milder type, but it was expensive to the community because it was considered necessary to isolate cases for five or six weeks, and the children, of course, lost all that time at school, and although the disease was mild in its type it was not unfrequently complicated by trouble in the heart, glands and joints.

I have great hopes that under the new treatment we are going to avoid these complications and be able to send the children back to school in a fortnight.

School Medical Officers are doing grand work which could not be done without them.

Their duties are to frequently examine all the children with a view to finding—in their early stages—the many departures from health which may be overlooked or neglected by the parents, and their immediate treatment.

Custom has not considered it any part of the duty of the Private Medical Attendant to do this.

Deficient growth of mind or body, faults in sight, hearing or teeth, diseased tonsils or rheumatism are among the many diseases to which I refer, and the early treatment of which should go far to give us a healthier and happier nation and one better able to stand and withstand disease.

One sees school children having lessons out of doors in hot weather. This is not a big matter, and it does not often happen, but it is one of the many signs of the general care for the health of the children.

The out-of-door life of the Scouts (male and female), with all the attention it gives to obedience, cleanliness and independent observation is another valuable asset. Even the collecting of wild flowers by school children is healthy, interesting and instructive.

With a few exceptions in outlying houses we have an abundant and excellent supply of water throughout the district, excluding Hayling.

The northern parts of Hayling are still largely dependant on surface wells.

Now that the Sanitary Authority have purchased Hayling Waterworks I hope this will soon be remedied. It is a question whether the wells at the Waterworks

will yield, all the year round, sufficient water for the needs of the growing population.

Even now there is at times a need for economy.

It is possible to get water from the same source as the rest of the District.

Hayling must not be allowed to go short.

Nearly the whole of the District is now sewered and I understand that the sewers are working satisfactorily.

Refuse is collected regularly by the employees of the Sanitary Authority.

In all parts of the District (except Hayling) it is burnt. I am in hopes that Hayling will soon fall into line with the rest of the District.

Mosquitoes have been much less in evidence, and the British Mosquito Control Institute has been established at Hayling.

Much good and original work is being done there.

I should like to see sanitary conveniences and water supplies for the use of the large crowds who use Hayling's beach.

A. STEWART NORMAN,

D.P.H. Camb.

Surveyor and Inspector's Report.

During the year inspections have been made of Slaughter Houses &c., Bakehouses, Laundries, Workshops, Cowsheds and Dairies.

The disinfecting of houses after cases of infectious diseases has been carried out and formalin used :—
Total 20. The bedding has been removed and disinfected.

Sewerage.

The Parish of Farlington served with Sewers, the part north of Portsdown Hill, consisting of Waterlooville, Purbrook and Stakes Hill draining to the works at Waterlooville and the part South of Portsdown consisting of Drayton and Farlington drain to works at Drayton, is very satisfactory and the effluent good.

The works and Sewers at Bedhampton have now been completed and practically all the houses have been connected.

This is working well and the effluent good.

The Works and Sewers in the Parish of Hayling South (dealing with the eastern portion of the Parish) are now also completed.

This is working well and the effluent good.

During the year properties have been connected to the Sewers as follow :—

Bedhampton	...	...	204
Drayton and Farlington	...	...	82
Waterlooville, Purbrook, Stakes Hill	...	...	40
Hayling South	...	...	281
			—
			607
			—

The machinery in connection with the Sewage Lifts is working exceptionally well and very little trouble has been experienced during the year.

Owing to the increased building activity on the unsewered portion of the Western part of the Island, and

the development of building estates in this locality, it has been necessary to retain the whole of the plant for emptying cesspools, and this plant will probably have to be added to in the near future. Great difficulty is experienced in attending to the cesspools within the Statutory period during the summer months when the Island is full of visitors. It appears, therefore, that the drainage of this portion of the Island should be seriously considered and put in hand as soon as possible.

The work in emptying cesspools is carried out in the Parishes of N. Havant and Hayling South (North and Western areas of this Parish) also to the houses off the sewered area in the Parishes of Bedhampton and Farlington by means of Gates' apparatus, the Council hiring horses and providing the manual labour.

The Sewage in the Parishes Sewered is deposited in the Sewers where possible.

The contents of the Earth Closet Soil Pails is removed twice weekly in the Parishes of Bedhampton, and N. Havant and Hayling South. The number of pails being as follows :—

Bedhampton	...	...	10
N. Havant	...	...	134
Hayling South	...	...	158

The collection of House Refuse is carried out once weekly in the Parishes of Bedhampton, Farlington and Hayling South. The latter Parish by contract.

Up to September 30th, the removal of refuse in the Parishes of Bedhampton and Farlington was also carried out by contract. A Scavenging cart was purchased, and horse and man hired at an hourly rate and collection is now made under the supervision of one of the Council's Employees.

This method has proved far more efficient, with the ever increasing population. The refuse is burnt as collected.

Twelve samples of water from wells have been submitted to the County Analyst, ten found polluted. In five cases the wells were cleaned out or new ones dug where no other supply was available and 4 connected to the Mains, 3 found in order.

Twenty one nuisances have been dealt with during the year affecting some 25 properties as follows :—9 polluted wells, 9 defective drainage, 1 carcase washed up on the Seashore and 2 foul ditches.

During the year 167 houses have been built, of these 124 have been erected under the Housing &c. Acts ; of these houses 3 obtained a water supply from wells and the remainder from the Company's and Council's mains.

There are about 60 houses under construction, of these 38 are being erected under the Housing &c. Acts.

Housing Conditions. General Statistics.

Area in Acres :—10,385.

Population (1925), about 9,500.

Number of inhabited houses 1921 :—1,526

Number of families or separate occupiers 1921 :—1603

Rateable Value —£58,765.

Sum represented by a penny rate :—£225 2s. 3d.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)—Total 161

(b)—With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.

(1)—By the Local Authority ... Nil

(2)—By other Bodies or Persons ... 124

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection :

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 1

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders ... Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (4) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 80
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices ... 80
- (a) by owners ... 80
- (b) by local authority in default of owners Nil
- Estimated shortage of Working Class Houses in the district ... 94

Instructions issued for the preparation of schemes for the erection of 94 houses on eleven sites in the following Parishes :—

Bedhampton	...	24
Farlington	...	28
N. Havant	...	6
N. Hayling	...	12
S. Hayling	...	24

Samples taken during the year in the District by the Health Department, Hampshire County Council, under the Food and Drugs Acts.

Article	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter ...	10 (3 informal)	1 A
Cheese ...	1	...
Cocoa ...	1	...
Coffee ...	2	...
Ground Ginger	1	...
Lard ...	1	...
New Milk ...	23	4 B
Pepper ...	2	...
Rum ...	1	...
Whiskey ...	2	...
Total ...	44 (3 informal)	5

Particulars of Unsatisfactory Samples.

A	(1)	Rancid.	Low Grade
	(2)	14.3 %	excess water
B	(3)	9.4 %	„
	(4)	6.8 %	„
	(5)	5.1 %	„

